In the claims:

1-32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) A power strip, comprising:

a housing having a first end and a second end;

at least one power outlet mounted on an exterior surface of the housing;

a power management circuit defined on an interior region of the housing, including:

a micro-controller coupled to the power supply and to a relay driver, the relay driver receiving control signals from the micro-controller;

an input power source sensor circuit is coupled intermediate the power supply and the micro-controller, to receive primary input power from the power supply and secondary input power from a secondary power source, whereby the input power source sensor circuit provides the primary input power to the micro-controller and if the primary input power fails, the input power source sensor circuit provides the secondary input power to the micro-controller; and

at least one relay coupled to the relay driver and to the at least one power outlet,

wherein the relay receives a control signal from the relay driver to actuate the relay to a conductive state to powering-on the power outlet and the relay receives another control signal from the relay driver to actuate the relay to a non-conductive state to powering-off the power outlet; and

an under voltage sensor coupled to the micro-controller and adapted to receive a predetermined voltage value from the power supply,

wherein the micro-controller is configured to indicate that current from the power supply has exceeded a predetermined threshold value.

34. (previously presented) The power strip of claim 33, wherein the at least one power outlet comprises a plurality of power outlets, the plurality of power outlets comprising a first group of power outlets and a second group of power outlets, the first group being coupled to the sensor circuit and the second group being coupled to the sensor circuit via the at least one relay.

35. (previously presented) The power strip of claim 34, wherein the power strip further includes a plurality of communication ports.

36. (currently amended) The power strip of claim 35, wherein the communication ports include a first communication port coupled to a communication-in circuit and a second communication port coupled to a communication-out circuit, the communication-in circuit and the communication-out circuit being further coupled to the micro-controller.

37. (previously presented) The power strip of claim 36, wherein the communication-in circuit includes the secondary power source.

38. (currently amended) The power strip of claim 37, wherein the under voltage sensor is responsive to the predetermined voltage-value falling below a the predetermined threshold value by providing a reset signal to the micro-controller.

39. (previously presented) The power strip of claim 38, wherein the micro-controller is further coupled to a non-volatile memory device.

40. (previously presented) The power strip of claim 39, wherein the micro-controller is further coupled to an audible alarm that can alert an operator that current on the input power line has exceeded a predetermined threshold value.

41. (currently amended) The power strip of claim 40, wherein the micro-controller is further coupled to a mute button that ~~which~~ is actuated to silence the audible alarm.

42. (previously presented) The power strip of claim 41, wherein the micro-controller is further coupled to an overload light-emitting-diode which is controlled to illuminate with a predetermined frequency to indicate an overload status of the input power line.

43. (previously presented) The power strip of claim 42, wherein the second group of power outlets includes a plurality of light emitting diodes that can each be controlled to illuminate to indicate that an associated outlet is powered-on.

44. (currently amended) The power strip of claim 33 further comprising a current sensor circuit that is adapted to receive input power over an input power line, the current sensor circuit being coupled to a power supply and to the at least one power outlet~~;~~.

45. (currently amended) A power distribution method comprising the steps of:

energizing an input power line to power-up a group of power outlets on a power distribution system;

initializing the power distribution system according to at least one system parameter or at least one operating configuration, wherein initializing according to a system parameter or an operating configuration includes the steps of:

programming at least one of a normal-threshold value, an overload threshold value or an under-voltage threshold value into the power distribution system;

programming delays into the power distribution system, the delays being related to powering-on and powering-off a power outlet in the group of power outlets;

programming a sequence for which the power outlet from the group of power outlets is powered-on and powered-off with respect to a second power outlet from the group of power outlets; and

controlling a relay to actuate to a conductive state in accordance with a predetermined sequence and a predetermined delay to ~~sequentially~~ power-on the power outlet in the group of power outlets on the power distribution system with respect to the second power outlet in the group of power outlets.

46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) The power distribution method of claim ~~46~~ 45, wherein the method further includes:

sensing current on the input power line;

providing the sensed current to a micro-controller; and

determining if the sensed current is below the normal-threshold value,

wherein if the sensed current is below the normal-threshold value, the method further includes indicating a normal operation of the power distribution system.

48. (previously presented) The power distribution method of claim 47, wherein the method further includes the steps of:

determining if the sensed current is above the normal-threshold value; and

determining if the sensed current is below the overload-threshold value,

wherein if the sensed current is above the normal-threshold value and below the overload-threshold value, the method further includes indicating a high current status of the power distribution system.

49. (previously presented) The power distribution method of claim 48, wherein the method further includes the step of:

determining if the sensed current is above the overload-threshold value,

wherein if the sensed current is above the overload-threshold value, the method further includes indicating an alarm status of the power distribution system.

50. (currently amended) The power distribution method of claim 49, wherein if the sensed current is above the normal-threshold value and below the overload-threshold value, the method further includes controlling ~~a first group of predetermined relays~~ the relay to actuate to a non-conductive state to power-off ~~a number of associated~~ the power ~~outlets~~ outlet in the group of power outlets.

51. (currently amended) The power distribution method of claim 50, wherein if the sensed current is above the overload-threshold value, the method further includes controlling a

second ~~group of predetermined~~ relays to actuate to a non-conductive state to power-off ~~a number of associated power outlets~~ the second power outlet from the group of power outlets.

52. (canceled)

53. (currently amended) The power distribution method of claim ~~52~~ 51, wherein powering-on the second ~~group of power outlets~~ power outlet further includes illuminating a ~~plurality of~~ light-emitting-diodes associated with the second ~~group of~~ power outlets.

54. (previously presented) The power distribution method of claim 53, wherein the method further includes programming a maximum current draw value.

55-57. (canceled)